

Please cancel claims 10-18, amend claims 1-3, 5-9 and add new claims 21-29 as follows:

CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A container closure for a container comprising:

a top;

an annular side wall extending from the top, the side wall having an internal thread adapted to engage with threads of the container around a container opening; and

a tamper-evident portion on a lower portion of the side wall, the tamper-evident portion including a plurality of leaders extending across a score line to a lower band, the lower band including a substantially continuous internal projection below the leaders, wherein the projection includes an angled portion for a portion of a the circumference of the tamper-evident portion forming a one-way lead-in thread for the projection, wherein the one-way lead-in thread formed by the angled portion has a pitch extending in a same direction as the internal thread of the annular side wall, whereby the one-way lead-in thread formed by the angled portion allows the projection of the tamper-evident portion to be threaded past a retaining ridge of a container.

2. (Amended) The closure as claimed in claim 1 wherein the angled portion forming the one way lead-in thread extends for about ninety degrees of the circumference.

3. (Amended) The closure as claimed in claim 2 further including a plug seal on the top, wherein the angled portion forming the one way lead-in thread includes a rounded end, and wherein the angled portion is angled [in] with the same [direction] pitch as the threads on the side wall.

4. (Original) The closure as claimed in claim 1 wherein the projection is a rib having a length-to-width ratio of at least one and one-half.

5. (Amended) The closure as claimed in claim 4 wherein the rib is substantially rectangular in cross-section, has a substantially uniform cross section around the circumference, and has a length-to-width ratio of at least two, and is angled away from the top.

6. (Amended) A tamper-evident portion for a container closure wherein the tamper-evident portion is on a lower portion of the side wall of the container closure, the tamper-evident portion comprising:

a lower band;

a score line between the lower band and the side wall of the container closure;

a plurality of leaders extending across the score line between the lower band and the side wall of the container to connect the lower band to the side wall; and

a substantially continuous internal projection on the lower band below the leaders, wherein the projection includes an angled portion for a portion of a the circumference of the lower band forming a one-way lead-in thread for the projection, whereby the one-way lead-in thread formed by the angled portion allows the projection of the tamper-evident portion to be threaded past a retaining ridge of a container.

7. (Amended) The tamper-evident portion as claimed in claim 6 wherein the angled portion forming the one way lead-in thread extends for about ninety degrees of the circumference.

8. (Amended) The tamper-evident portion as claimed in claim 6 wherein the projection is a rib having a length-to-width ratio of at least one and one-half and wherein the angled portion forming the one way lead-in thread includes a rounded end.

9. (Amended) The tamper-evident band as claimed in claim 6 wherein the rib is substantially rectangular in cross-section, has a length-to-width ratio of at least two, has a substantially uniform cross section around the circumference, and is angled away from the leaders.

10-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Amended) A one-piece injection molded container closure for a container comprising:

a top;

an annular side wall-structure extending from the top, the side structure including an upper side wall having an internal thread adapted to engage with threads of the container around a container opening; and

a substantially continuous internal rib extending inwardly directly from the side structure and having a length-to-width ratio of at least one and one-half, wherein the rib maintains hoop-like characteristics and extends inwardly from the side structure away from the top as molded and in use on a container.

20. (Amended) The container closure as claimed in claim 19 wherein the rib is substantially rectangular in cross-section, and has a length-to-width ratio of at least two, and is angled away from the top.

21. (New) The container closure of claim 19, wherein the rib has a substantially constant cross section around a circumference of the side structure.

22. (New) The container closure of claim 19 wherein the rib is designed to flex toward the side structure during exiting of the mold and forms a rigid element relative to the side structure following molding.

23. (New) The container closure of claim 19 wherein the rib forms a rigid interfering element for a tamper evident band.

24. (New) A one-piece injection molded container closure for a container comprising:

a top;

an annular side wall extending from the top, the side wall having an internal thread adapted to engage with threads of the container around a container opening; and

a tamper-evident portion on a lower portion of the side wall, the tamper-evident portion including a plurality of leaders extending across a score line to a lower band, the lower band including a substantially continuous internal rib below the leaders, wherein the substantially continuous internal rib extends inwardly and has a length-to-width ratio of at least one and one-half, wherein the rib maintains hoop-like characteristics and extends inwardly from the lower band away from the top as molded and in use on a container.

25. (New) The container closure as claimed in claim 24 wherein the rib is substantially rectangular in cross-section and has a length-to-width ratio of at least two.

26. (New) The container closure of claim 25, wherein the rib has a substantially constant cross section around a circumference of the lower band.

27. (New) The container closure of claim 26 wherein the rib is designed to flex during exiting of the mold and forms a rigid interference element for the tamper evident portion following molding.

28. (New) The container closure as claimed in claim 24 wherein the rib includes an angled portion for a portion of a circumference of the lower band forming a one-way lead-in thread for the rib, whereby the one-way lead-in thread formed by the angled portion allows the rib of the tamper-evident portion to be threaded past a retaining ridge of a container.

29. (New) The container closure of claim 24 wherein the rib is thicker than the thickness of the side wall.